(e) whether there is any proposal to have rope way for facility of old pilgrims?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The number of pilgrims who visited Hemkund Saheb during the years 2005, 2006 and 2007 were 548414, 576658 and 557129 respectively.

(b) The number of foreigners who went to Hemkund Saheb in 2005, 2006 and 2007 were 25, 32 and 63 respectively.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 653.54 lakh to the Government of Uttarakhand for integrated development of the tourist circuit Hemkund Saheb-Ghangharia - Valley of Flowers. The project, which is expected to be completed by October 30, 2009, *inter-alia* includes the following components:—

(i) Development of basic facilities at various plans in Ghangharia, Hemkund Saheb route.

(ii) Strengthening of trek route from Ghangharia to Hemkund Saheb.

(iii) Installation of Signages at Ghangharia, Hemkund Saheb.

(iv) Development of alternate route for benefit of pedestrians.

(v) Construction of Toilet blocks along the Trek route.

(vi) Provision of water points along the trek route.

(vii) Provision of Garbage Collection Bins along Trek route.

(viii) Construction of Pits for Mule dung along Trek route.

(e) No, Sir.

Construction of dam at Maniyarsui in Uttarakhand

†2002. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has any plan to construct a dam in Maniyarsui (Pauri Garhwal) in the State of Uttarakhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Satpuli-Devprayag motor way is in danger due to construction of Badio and Vyaschati dam; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to save this motor way?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) As per the information received from the Government of Uttarakhand, there is no proposal to construct a dam at Maniyarsui (Pauri Garhwal).

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) As per information received from the Government of Uttarakhand there is no plan to construct a dam at Badio and Vyaschati. However, the State Governemnt has a plan

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

to construct a 41 m high concrete dam at Marora village under Nayar Dam Project. As the Satpuli Motor way is quite high above the maximum reservoir level, there is no danger to the said Motorway.

Misutilised fund for Accelerated Irrigation Benefit

2003. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the expenditure under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme have been either diverted, parked or misutilised in the past many years;

(b) if so, the details of the funds allocated during the last three years and the land irrigated each year; and

(c) what are the steps Government is taking to directly send the funds for the specific projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) In the Report of the Comptroller & Audit General of India on Union Government for the year ended March, 2003, titled performance appraisal of Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP), diversion, parking and misutilisation of funds was reported.

(b) The year wise details of Central assistance provided to the States during 2004-05 to 2006-07 and potential creation under AIBP during the corresponding period are given in the following Table:

(*Amount in Rs. crore and Irrigation potential in lakh Hectare*)

Sl. No.	Year	Central Assistance Provided during the year under AIBP (Loan/Grant)	Irrigation potential created under AIBP
1.	2004-05	2867.3372	4.96
2.	2005-06	1900.3142	6.00
3.	2006-07	2301.9722	9.32
	TOTAL	7069.6236	20.28

(c) Under AIBP, Central Government provides project-wise allocation of grants to the States. Ministry of Water Resources/Central Water Commission field units are consistently monitoring the physical and financial progress of the projects under AIBP.

Plan for interlinking of rivers

†2004. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any plan for interlinking the rivers of the country in the next Five Year Plan;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.